

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments in this paper, claims 1-32 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21, 25 and 28-31 are amended. No new matter is entered. This paper is fully responsive to the Office action mailed on June 23, 2011.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of alleged informalities in the brief description of the drawings on pages 16-17.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants amend the specification to include references to Figs. 5a-b, Figs. 9a-c, and Figs. 10a-c. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the specification is in condition for allowance

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledged that claims 10, 23, 24 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's acknowledged that claims 12, 13, 16-20, 22, 25, 26 and 28-32 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the allowable features recited in original claim 10, and amend claims 12, 13, 16-20, 22, 25, 26, and 28-32 to overcome the alleged §112, second paragraph, rejections. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 8, 11-22, 25, 26 and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants amend claims 8, 11, 15, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 30 to clarify the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejected claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8, 11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Maeda* (US 6,796,351).

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the original claim language and the cited reference. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the allowable features recited in original claim 10. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by *Maeda*. In view of this amendment, Applicants request favorable reconsideration of pending claims 1-8, 11, and 14.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9, 15 and 21 stand under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Maeda* in view of *Shinozaki et al.* (US 6,698,489).

Claims 9, 15, and 21 depend from claim 1. *Shinozaki et al.* does not cure the deficiencies described above. Applicants request favorable reconsideration of pending claims 9, 15 and 21.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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